

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference B45320RFW	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/10349	International filing date (day/month/year) 15/09/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 17/09/2002
Applicant GLAXOSMITHKLINE BIOLOGICALS S.A.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 7 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing.

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☒ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

ARTICLE HOLDING MEANS AND CONVEYOR SYSTEM

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☒ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

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☐ None of the figures.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (first sheet) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 03/10349

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B65G17/32 B65G17/46 B65B3/00 B65B31/08 B65B55/02
A61J1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B65G B65B A61J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 02 064439 A (PY DANIEL C) 22 August 2002 (2002-08-22)	1-4,10, 11,14
Y	column 5, line 25 -column 6, line 42; figures 2,9,10	17-23, 25-28, 30,31
Y	--- US 3 881 763 A (BENSON NORMAN E) 6 May 1975 (1975-05-06) cited in the application page 16, line 6 - line 11	17-21,23
A	--- EP 0 213 690 A (PACKARD INSTRUMENT CO INC) 11 March 1987 (1987-03-11) figures 1,2	1
A	--- US 3 092 237 A (MILLER HARRY L) 4 June 1963 (1963-06-04) figures 1,2	1,14,20

-/-

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

02.04.2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.O. 5010 Patentplan 2
NL - 2280 LV Rijswijk
Tel: (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx: 31 651 opx rd,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lawder, M

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 03/10349

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 558 200 A (KRISHNANTH KENNETH A ET AL) 24 September 1996 (1996-09-24) figures 4,5 ---	1,14
Y	US 2 503 147 A (NORMAN APPLEZWEIG) 4 April 1950 (1950-04-04) column 6, line 48 - line 53; figure 4 ---	22
A	US 6 360 794 B1 (TURNER TERRY D) 26 March 2002 (2002-03-26) column 9, line 1 - line 12; figure 5 ---	22,23
A	DE 199 16 662 A (BOSCH GMBH ROBERT) 19 October 2000 (2000-10-19) column 1, line 64 -column 2, line 25; figure 2 ---	22,23
X	US 6 098 676 A (POYNTER RICHARD Q ET AL) 8 August 2000 (2000-08-08) column 3, line 20 -column 4, line 43; figure 1 ---	24
Y		25-28, 30,31
A	EP 0 096 336 A (ZANASI SPA) 21 December 1983 (1983-12-21) the whole document -----	24

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/10349

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 02064439	A	22-08-2002	US 2002023409 A1	28-02-2002
			BR 0116879 A	17-02-2004
			CA 2449704 A1	22-08-2002
			EP 1370471 A1	17-12-2003
			WO 02064439 A1	22-08-2002
			US 2003159750 A1	28-08-2003

US 3881763	A	06-05-1975	NONE	

EP 0213690	A	11-03-1987	AU 6119686 A	05-03-1987
			EP 0213690 A2	11-03-1987
			FI 862472 A	01-03-1987
			JP 62055586 A	11-03-1987

US 3092237	A	04-06-1963	NONE	

US 5558200	A	24-09-1996	AU 2430395 A	29-11-1995
			WO 9529860 A1	09-11-1995

US 2503147	A	04-04-1950	NONE	

US 6360794	B1	26-03-2002	NONE	

DE 19916662	A	19-10-2000	DE 19916662 A1	19-10-2000

US 6098676	A	08-08-2000	US 5947170 A	07-09-1999

EP 0096336	A	21-12-1983	IT 1156605 B	04-02-1987
			AT 31270 T	15-12-1987
			DE 3374853 D1	21-01-1988
			EP 0096336 A2	21-12-1983
			JP 59040859 A	06-03-1984

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 2002)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/10349**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (1)) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/10349

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Holding means (10) for holding an article (40) onto a conveyor system, particularly for holding pharmaceutical vials onto a conveyor system (60) for performing a filling and sealing operation thereon. The holding means bears downwardly on the article. A conveyor system incorporating the holding means is also provided. In a further aspect an aerodynamically shrouded processing station (80, 81) for use with the conveyor is provided which minimises disruption of a downward laminar flow of purified air (100).

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (2)) (July 1998)

International Application No. PCT/EP 03/10349

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-21,23

Holding means for an article and conveyor system, the holding means comprising a base part and a grip part.

2. Claims: 22,23

Conveyor system and process for filling a vial through a hollow needle.

3. Claims: 24-31

Processing station for performing an operation on an article in a laminar flow of purified air, an aerodynamic shroud being placed around the processing apparatus.